

Sinclair Broadcasting must be forced to be balanced or to go off the air. Their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. THEY ARE

NOT AIRING "GOING UPRIVER" OR OTHER OPPOSING DOCUMENTARY. This kind of corporate unfettered and unbalanced manipulation of public opinion is NO DIFFERENT from government control of the media in Russia during the Soviet years. This is not the behavior of a free press. It is un-American and very dangerous for democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Sincerely,